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Marvel

29th Dec. 1995
No 214 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Merry Christmas to all our readers!

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Christmas stories! Competition! Festive fun!

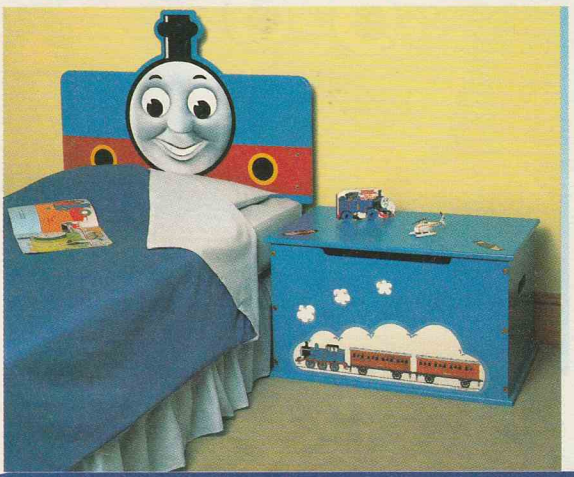
ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! It's Christmas time! Here on the Island of Sodor, the engines are getting ready for lots of festive fun! In our first fabulous story, find out how Percy becomes The Santa engine! Christmas won't be the same on the Island if the parcels aren't delivered. Can Thomas beat the snow to save the day? Find out in our read and play story, Post haste! Then learn how to make a terrific Thomas Christmas card on page 16! The engines are feeling fed up in our final story, Colourful Christmas! But surely the Fat Controller hasn't really forgotten them? You'll just have to read on to find out! There are also some great prizes to be won! Have a splendid Christmas, everyone! Peep! Peep!

WIN! A fantastic Thomas headboard!

See page 16!



Extra! There are six tasty Christmas puddings hidden throughout this magazine. Can you spot them all?

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Editor: Cynthia O'Neill; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Liz Stott,Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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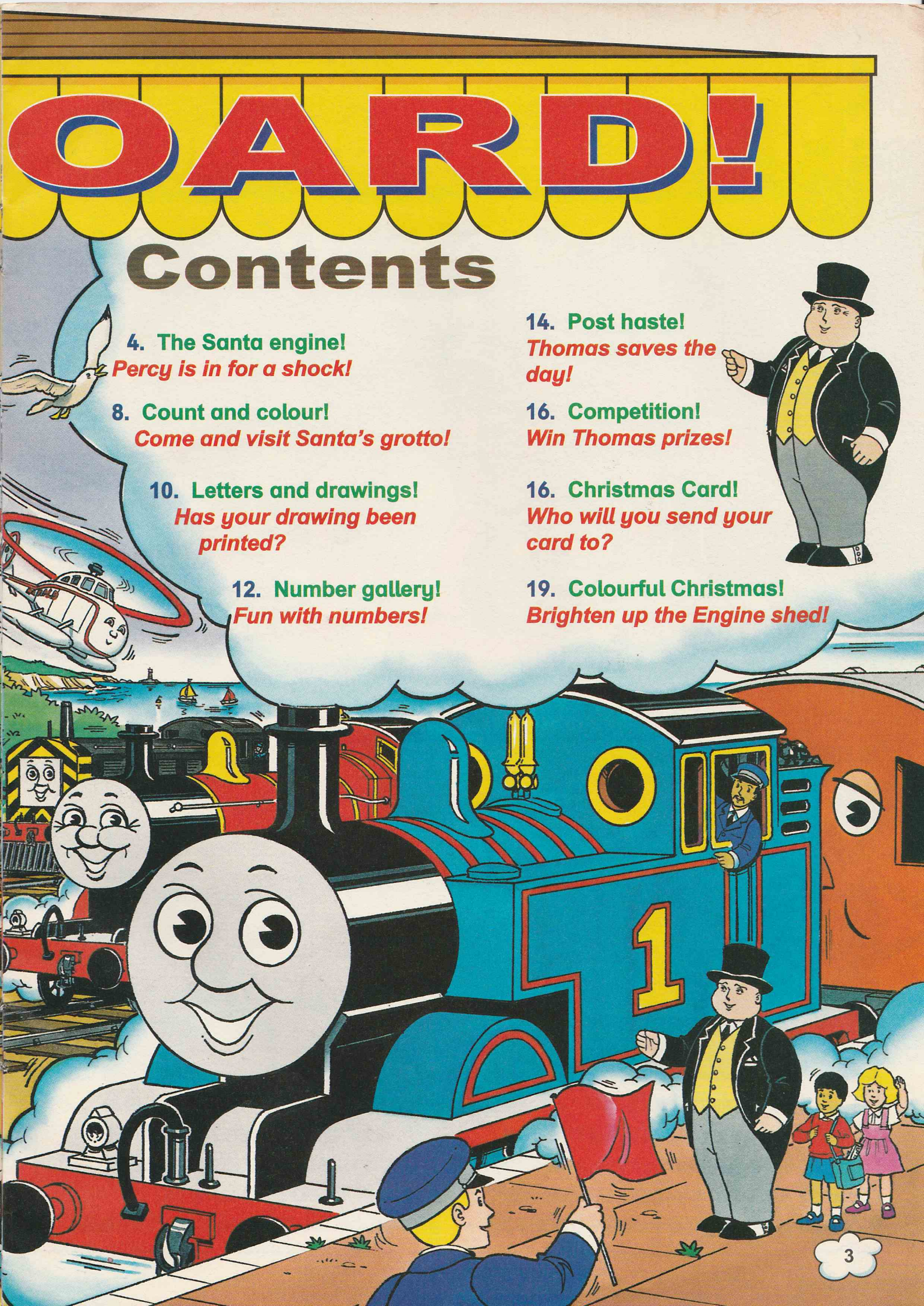
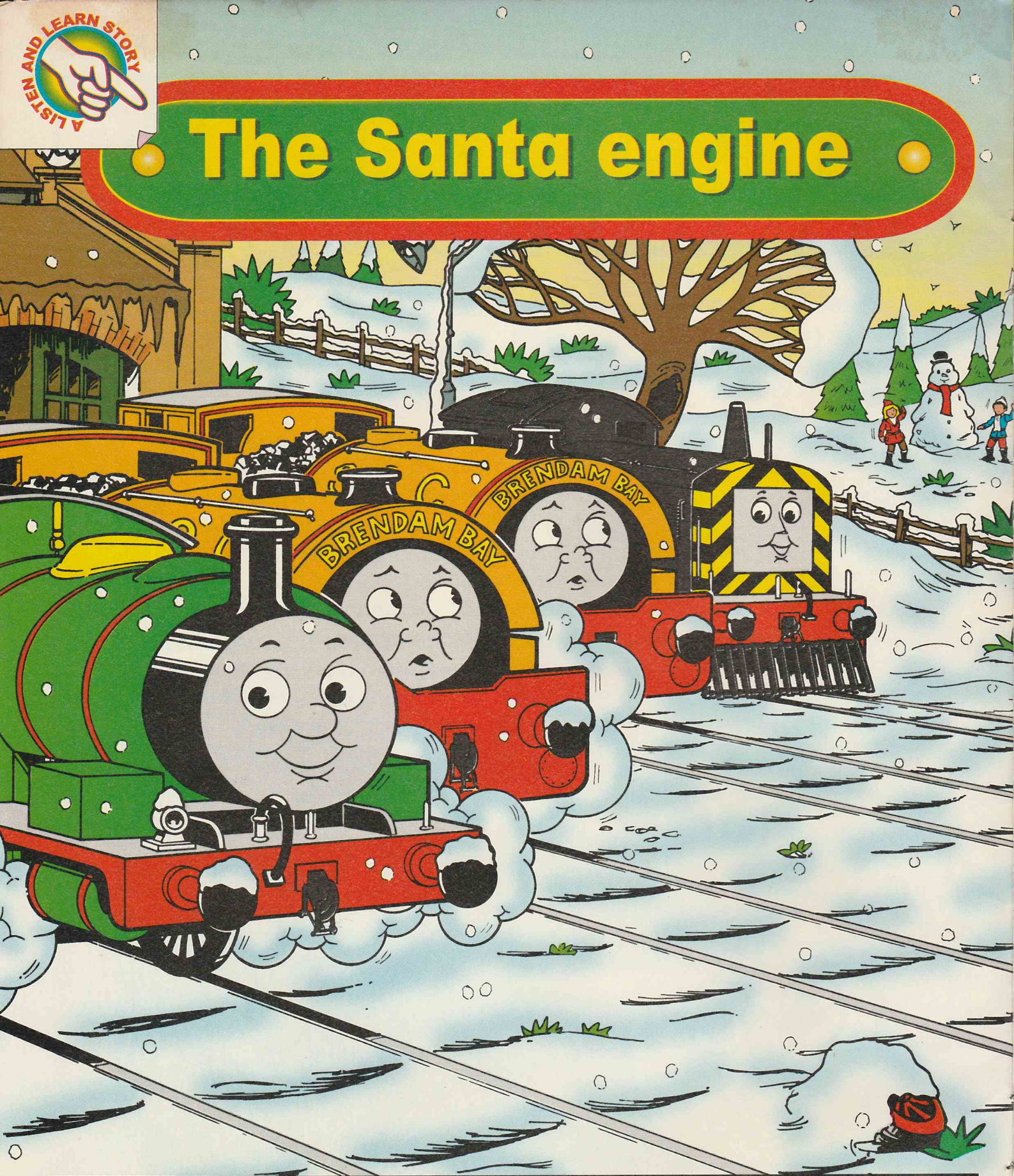
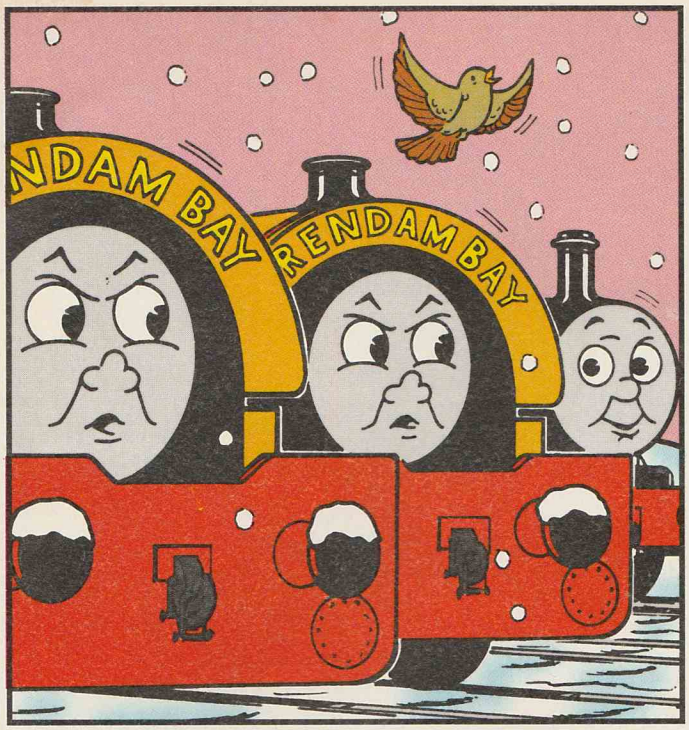




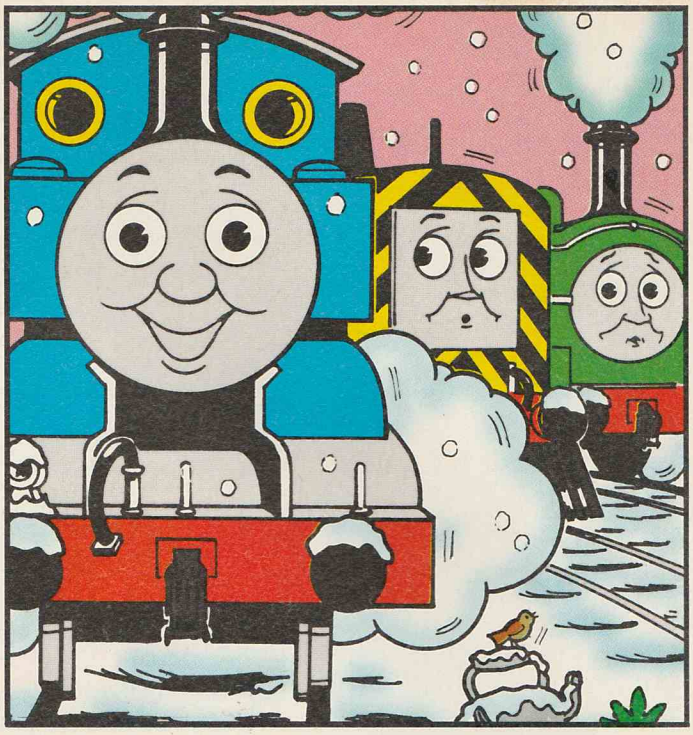
The Santa engine

1. One day near Christmas, Percy pretended he could hear a ghost train. Mavis was worried until Percy said it was really the wind blowing through a hollow tree.

2. Later, Percy warned there was a ghostly white figure by the Main Station. Bill and Ben were relieved to see it was only a snowman some children had built.

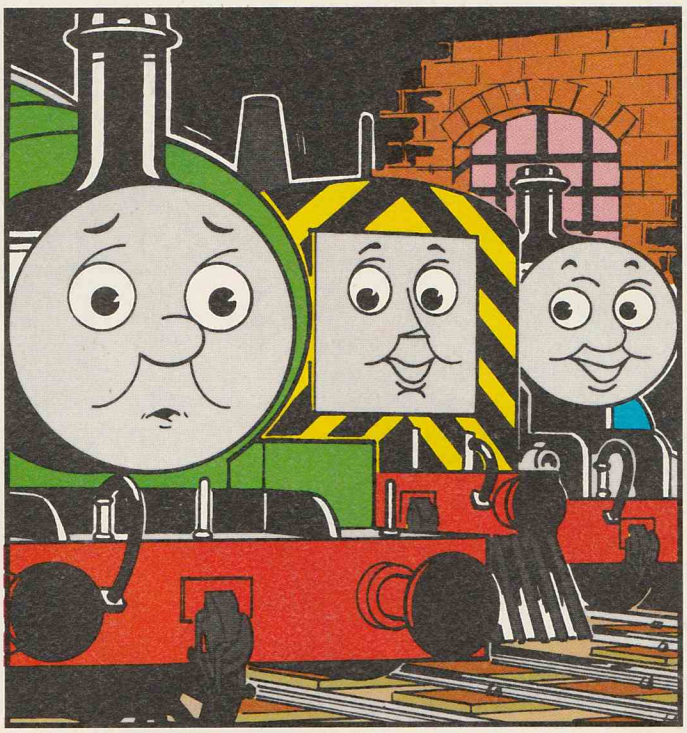


3. "You shouldn't keep teasing, Percy!" the Saddle-tank engine twins told him. "Pah! It's only harmless fun!" grinned Percy. He teased the other engines, too.



4. They were all getting very tired of Percy's tricks. "It's got to stop!" fumed Mavis. "How would he like it?" puffed Duck. "Let's find out!" smiled Thomas.

5. He had a clever idea. Thomas's driver agreed to help. In the engine shed, that evening, Thomas put his plan into action. Outside, his driver rang a hand-bell.

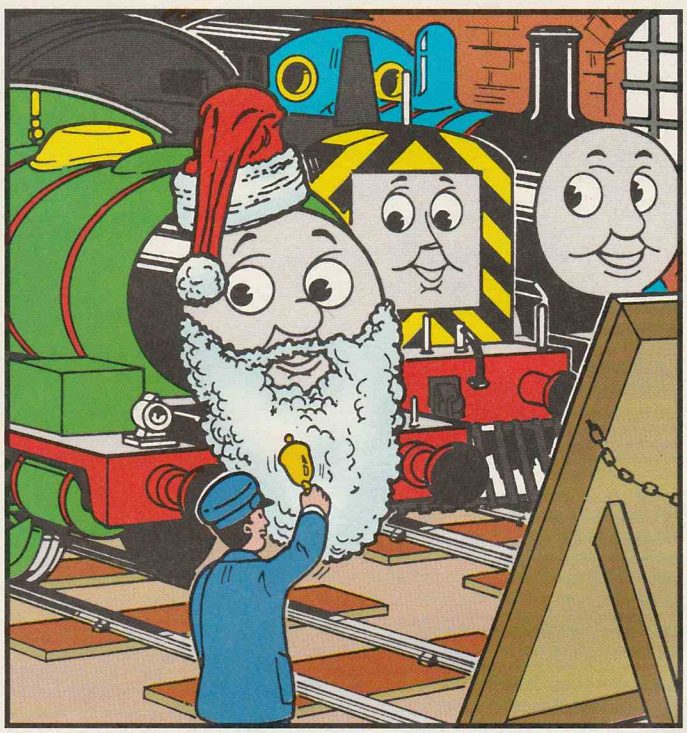


6. "What's that?" asked Percy. "It's the Santa Engine," replied Thomas. Percy was puzzled. "I've never heard of that before," he replied. "I have!" smiled Mavis.

7. "The Santa Engine flies through the snow at Christmas," Mavis went on. "It has a long, white beard and wears a big, red cap!" "Rubbish!" laughed Percy.

8. Soon he fell asleep. But, the next morning, Percy had a shock. When he opened his eyes, the Santa Engine was standing in front of him. "Look!" Percy cried.

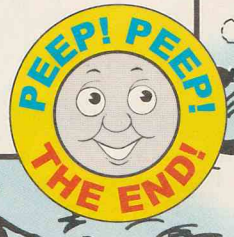
9. Next moment, Percy realised he was staring into a long mirror. The Santa Engine was really only himself. Percy wore a cotton-wool beard and a cap on his funnel.

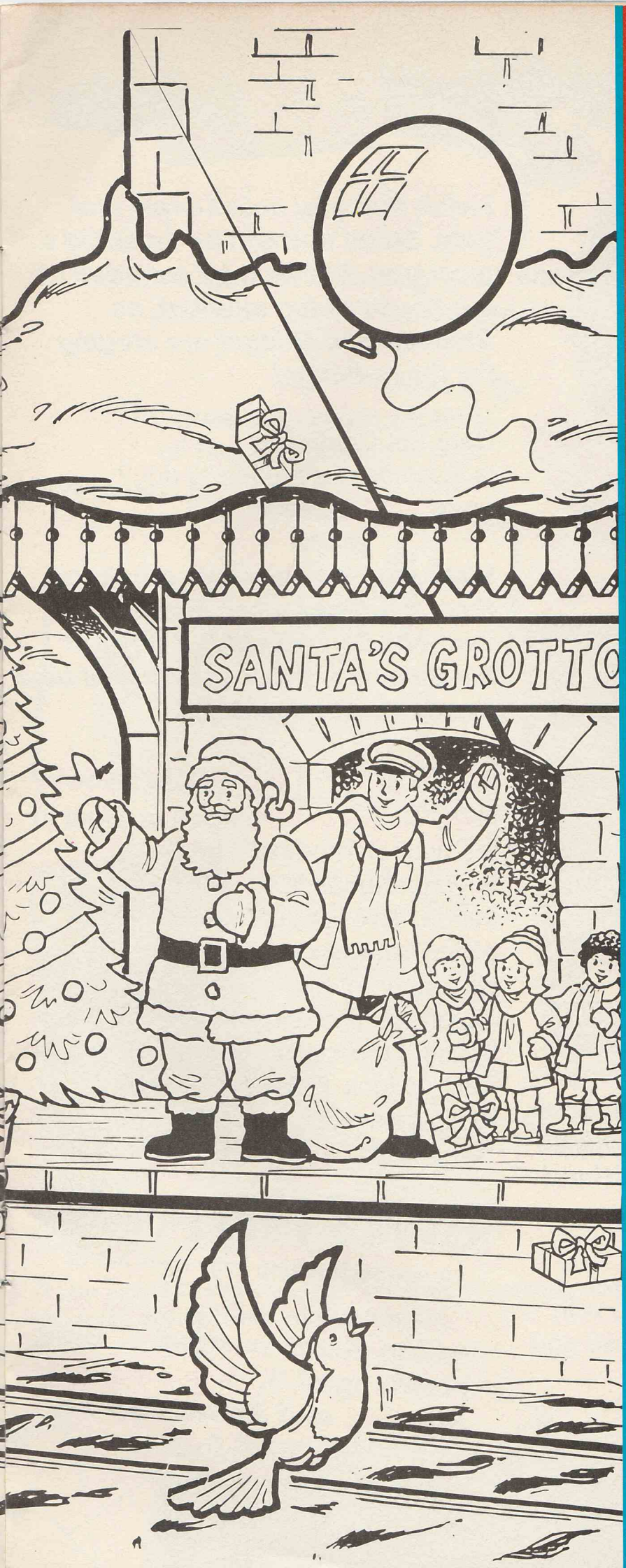


10. "Fooled you!" smiled Thomas. "My driver put the mirror there, then dressed you up while you slept." "That'll teach you not to tease us!" laughed the others.

11. Percy felt very silly until Thomas's driver removed the beard and cap. "I suppose it serves me right!" said Percy. Later, he was shunting trucks in the snowy yard when the Fat Controller came to see him. "I've got a special job for you, Percy," he said. When Percy heard what it was, he couldn't wait to tell the other engines.

12. **"I'm** going to be the Santa Engine now!" Percy said, proudly. His friends didn't believe him. Percy set off with a flat truck. Imagine the engines' surprise as Percy returned, pulling Santa and his sleigh on the truck. "It's a huge model for the town square!" explained Percy. "For once, you weren't just teasing!" smiled Thomas.





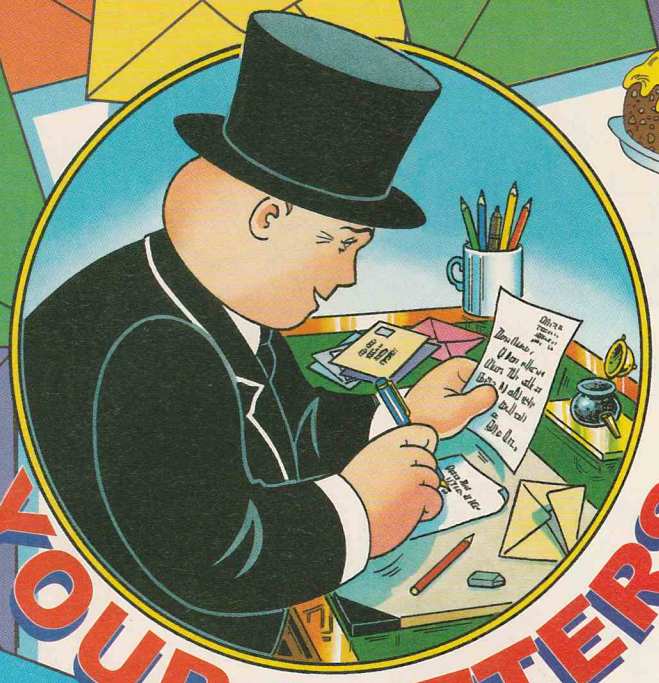
Count and colour!

Percy and Thomas have brought some young visitors to Santa's Grotto!

How many balloons can you see?

How many guards can you see?

Can you find 4 Christmas presents hidden in the picture?



YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me which of your engines is the oldest, and which is the youngest?
Love, Thomas Jackson, age 4

Thank you for writing, Thomas! Skarloey and Rhyneas are the oldest engines on my railway. Percy the Saddletank Engine is the youngest engine. He enjoys many adventures on the Island of Sodor!

Dear Fat Controller,
Can I please come and stay with you? I would like this because you are my friend!
Sami Doleh, aged 3

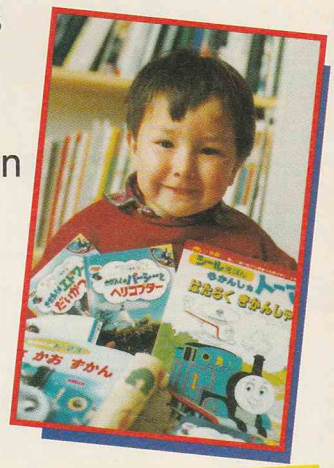
I wish that you could come and stay, Sami! It would be splendid to meet you. But its a bit crowded at my house at the moment, as Stephen and Bridget are staying for the holidays!

Dear Fat Controller,
Is Thomas cheeky every day?
Love Alex, aged 4

Well, Alex, as I am sure you know, there are times when Thomas is very cheeky indeed! But most of the time he's eager to help and be a Really Useful Engine!

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT

Owen Davies-Arai, aged 4, wrote to tell us that Thomas is very famous in Japan. This lovely picture shows Owen with some of his Japanese Thomas books! I must say, they do look really splendid.



BIRTHDAYS

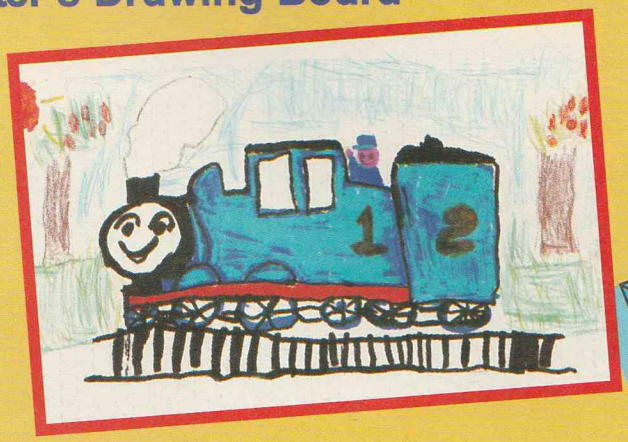
A special birthday hello goes out to

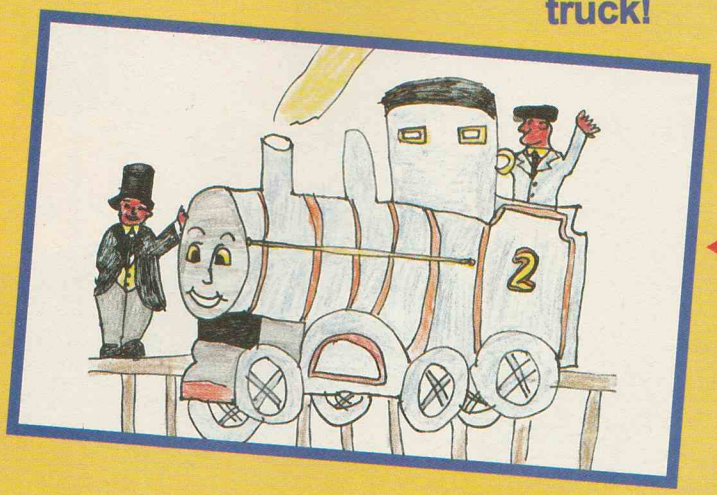
Alexander Dyson, aged 4, Fabian Heather, aged 4, Gary Plant, aged 5, Ben Stanford, aged 5, and Adam Berrow, aged 6.

Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board

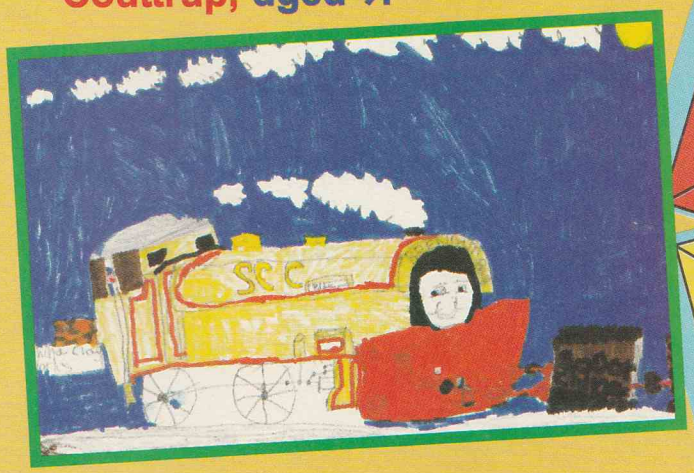
Leo Maguire, aged 5, drew this terrific picture of Thomas pulling a coal truck!

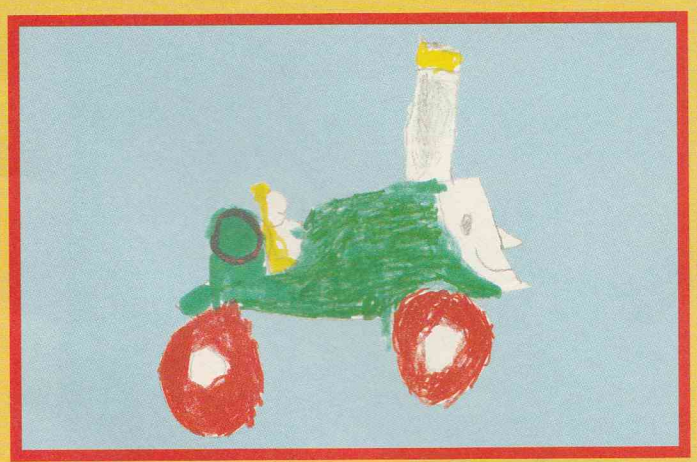




This fantastic picture shows the Fat Controller visiting Edward. It was drawn by Noel Coultrup, aged 9.

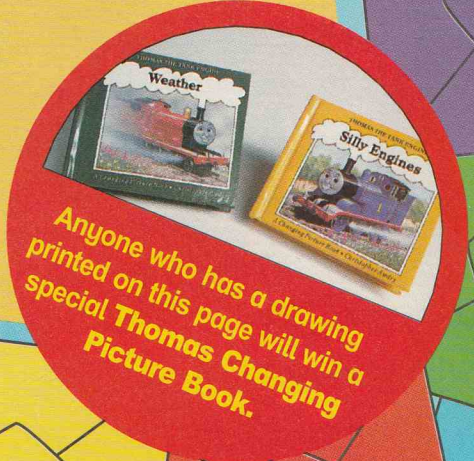
Thanks to Christopher Campbell, aged 5, for this lovely colourful picture of Bill.





This is a smashing picture of Trevor! It was drawn by Aaron Smith, aged 4

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on the page, please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.



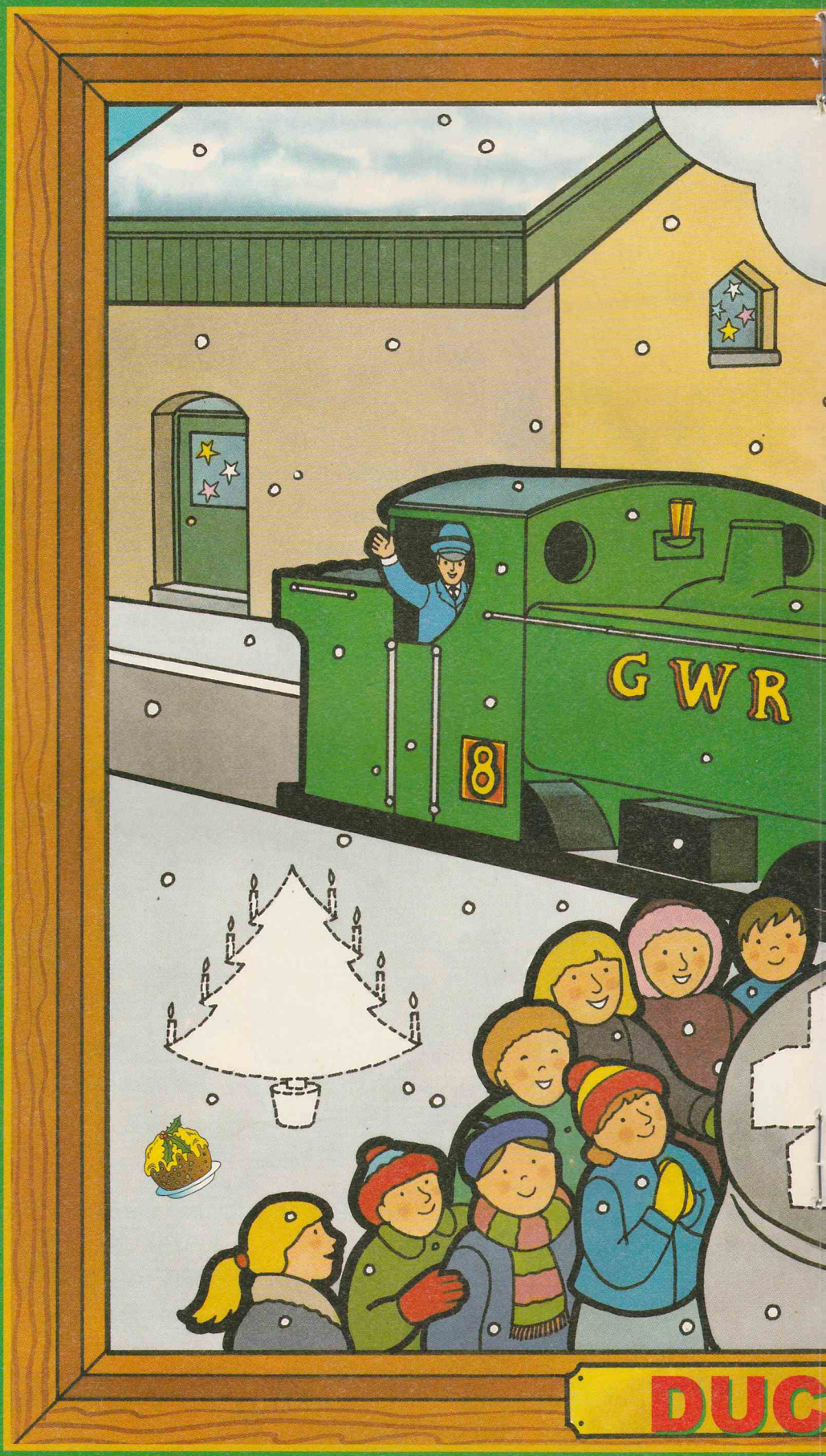
CUT OUT AND KEEP

Number G

Duck loves the snow, especially at Christmas! But this wintry scene isn't quite complete. Have you got your cut-outs from the last issue? If so, stick them on to the page to make the picture perfect! And don't forget to cut out the small pictures to the right of the drawing. You will need to keep them in a safe place for Number Gallery 9!

Christmas is a lovely time,
with candles on the tree.
The snowman has a jolly smile.
Now what else can you see?

Merry Christmas, everyone!



Gallery

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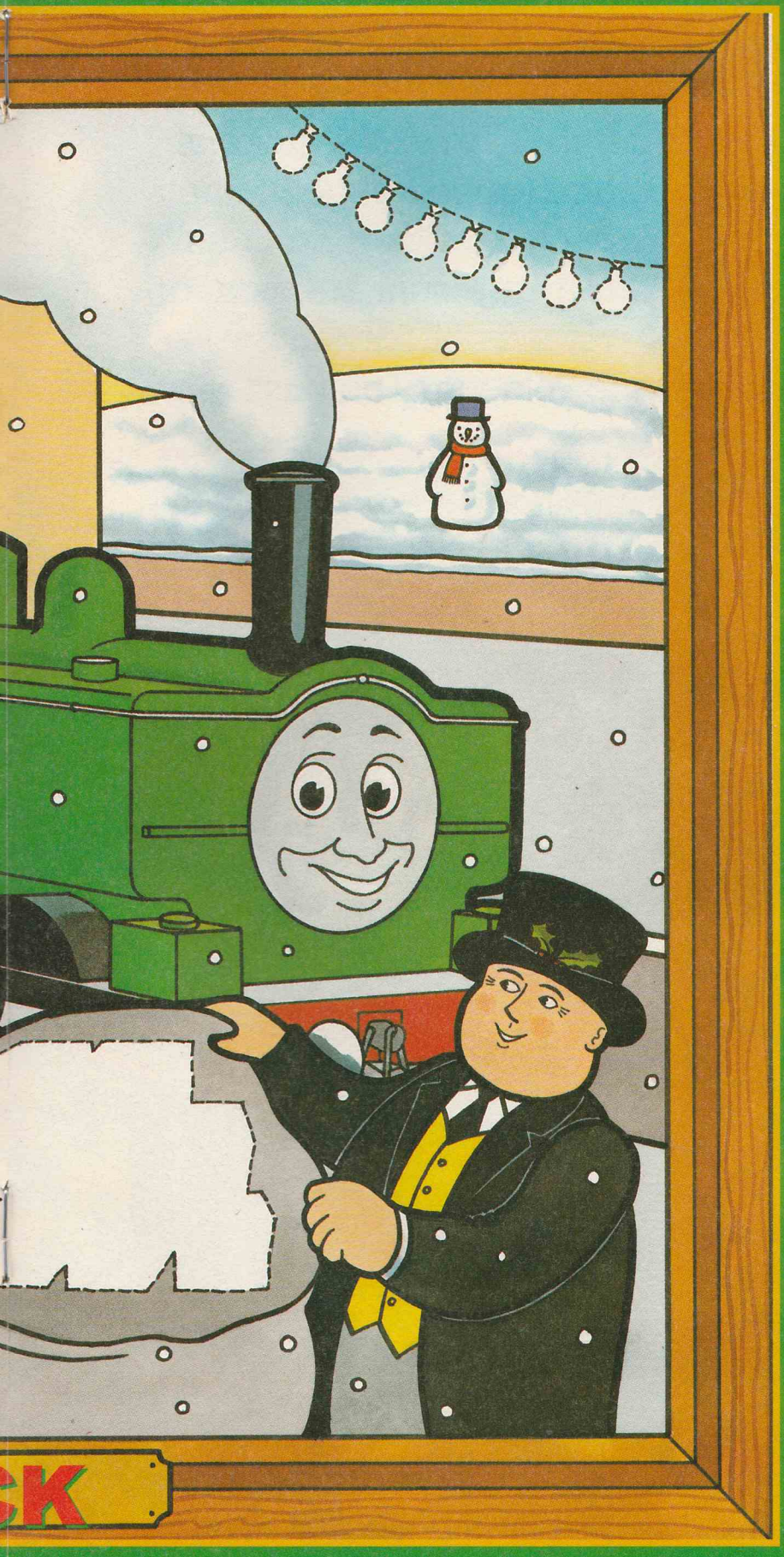
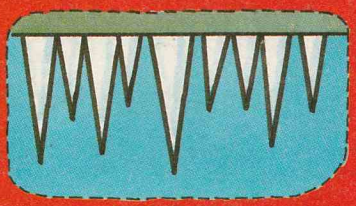
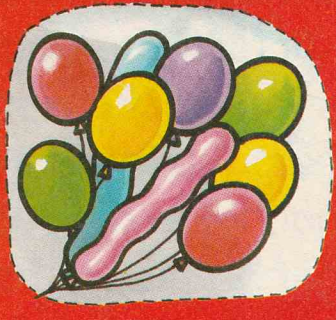






Post haste!

It was Christmas morning but Thomas had to work. A blizzard had howled all night. Thomas rolled into the snowy Main Station yard and was coupled to a mailvan.

"You're to go and meet the mailboat," the Fat Controller explained. "It's bringing the Christmas post from the mainland. Bad weather forced it to turn back yesterday."

"Christmas wouldn't be the same without any post, Sir," replied Thomas.

He set off urgently for the Big Harbour. But the mailboat was not there. By now, it was snowing harder than ever.

"I'll soon be snowed in!" said Thomas, anxiously.

At last, the boat arrived. Its mailsacks were unloaded into Thomas's coach. He delivered some post on his way back to the Main Station.

"It's no use," said the Fat Controller. "You'll never get through to the stations at the far end of your branch line!"

"I must," said Thomas.

He was fitted with a snowplough. Thomas

pulled a truck of sand from the yard, too. Then he puffed on his way. Large snowflakes stung his eyes and blew down his funnel. The snowplough helped Thomas push snow off the line, as he charged, full steam, through snowdrifts. Where the track was iced up, his crew shovelled sand on the rails so Thomas's wheels could grip.

One by one, Thomas reached the country stations on his line. People from nearby farms and villages were waiting for him. How they cheered as the little tank engine brought their Christmas post. Later, at the Main Station, the other engines cheered him, too.

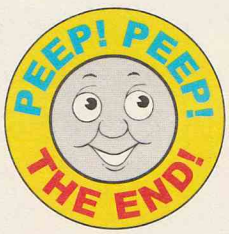
"Thanks to you, Thomas, people have cards and parcels to open," said the Fat Controller.

"So has Thomas," smiled his driver. "Look!" He opened lots of cards for Thomas and even a present. It was a blue, woolly hat to keep Thomas's funnel warm at night.

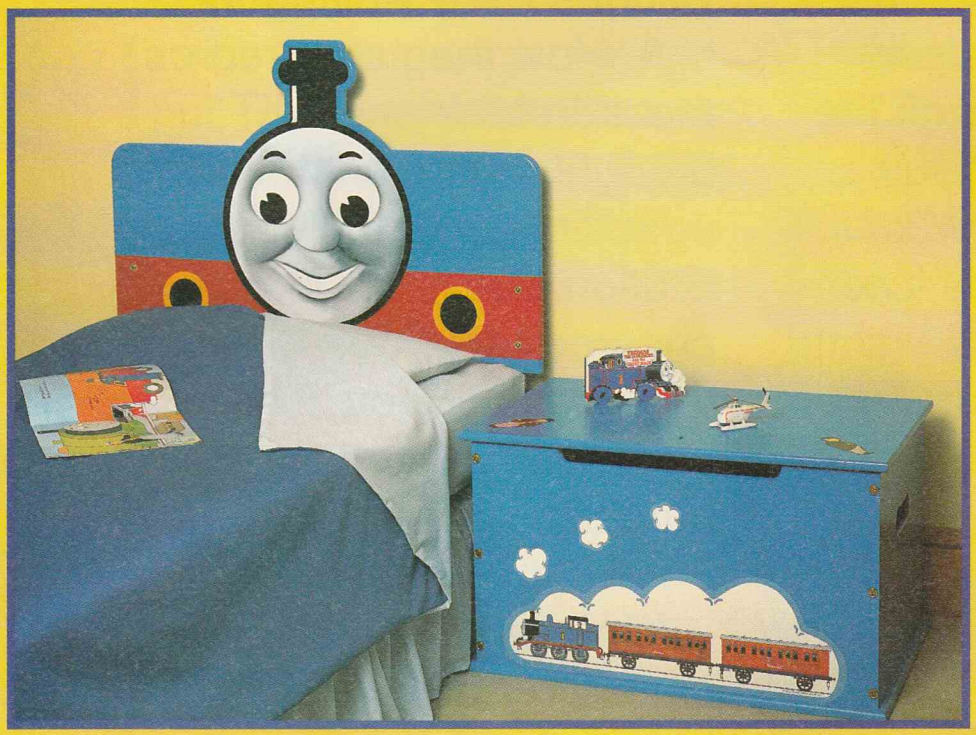
"How did my friends deliver those things to me in this terrible blizzard?" asked Thomas.

"They brought them to the stations you visited, for you to collect," said his driver.

"Then I made sure **my** post arrived, too!" laughed Thomas.



WIN A THOMAS HEADBOARD!



We've got five great Thomas headboards to offer as prizes in this issue's competition! To enter just answer this easy-peasy question:

What are the Fat Controller's grandchildren called?

Pop your answer on a postcard and send it, along with your name, age and address, to: Thomas/ Headboard competition, Heart Fashions & Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands WS9 9LR. Your entry should arrive by 2 January 1996.

Heart Fashions & Designs stock over 100 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182 quoting reference 214, or write to them at the above address.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Limited and Heart Fashions and Designs. All prizes will be distributed via the manufacturer. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Make your own engine Christmas card!

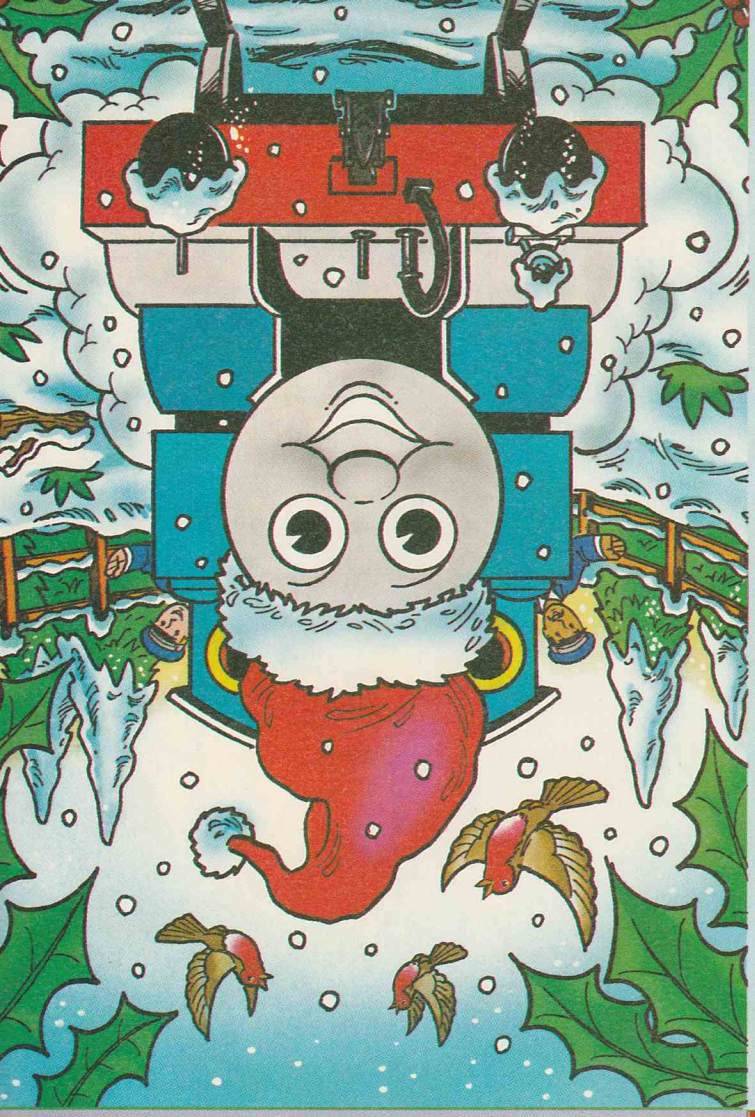
STEP BY STEP

1. Ask an adult to cut out the opposite page.

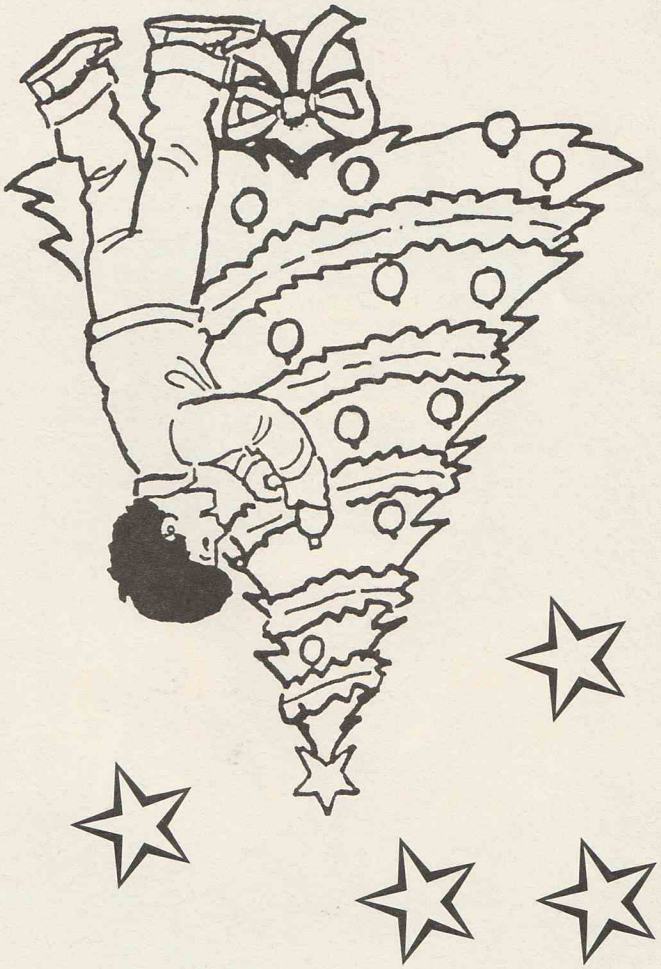
2. One page shows Thomas and the other shows James. Which one do you want to show on your card? (If you want to, you can colour in the picture of James.)

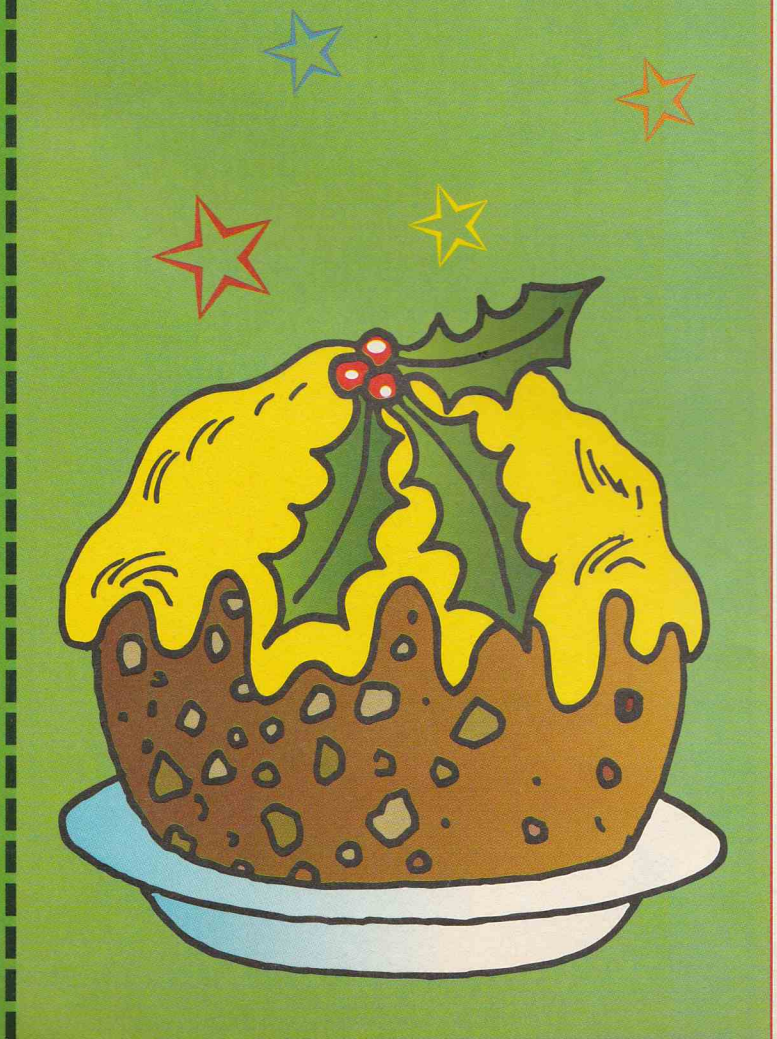
3. Carefully, fold the page neatly in half, so the picture of your favourite engine is at the front.

4. Now fold the page again to make a lovely card for you to send a friend!



Merry Christmas
from the
Island of Sodor!

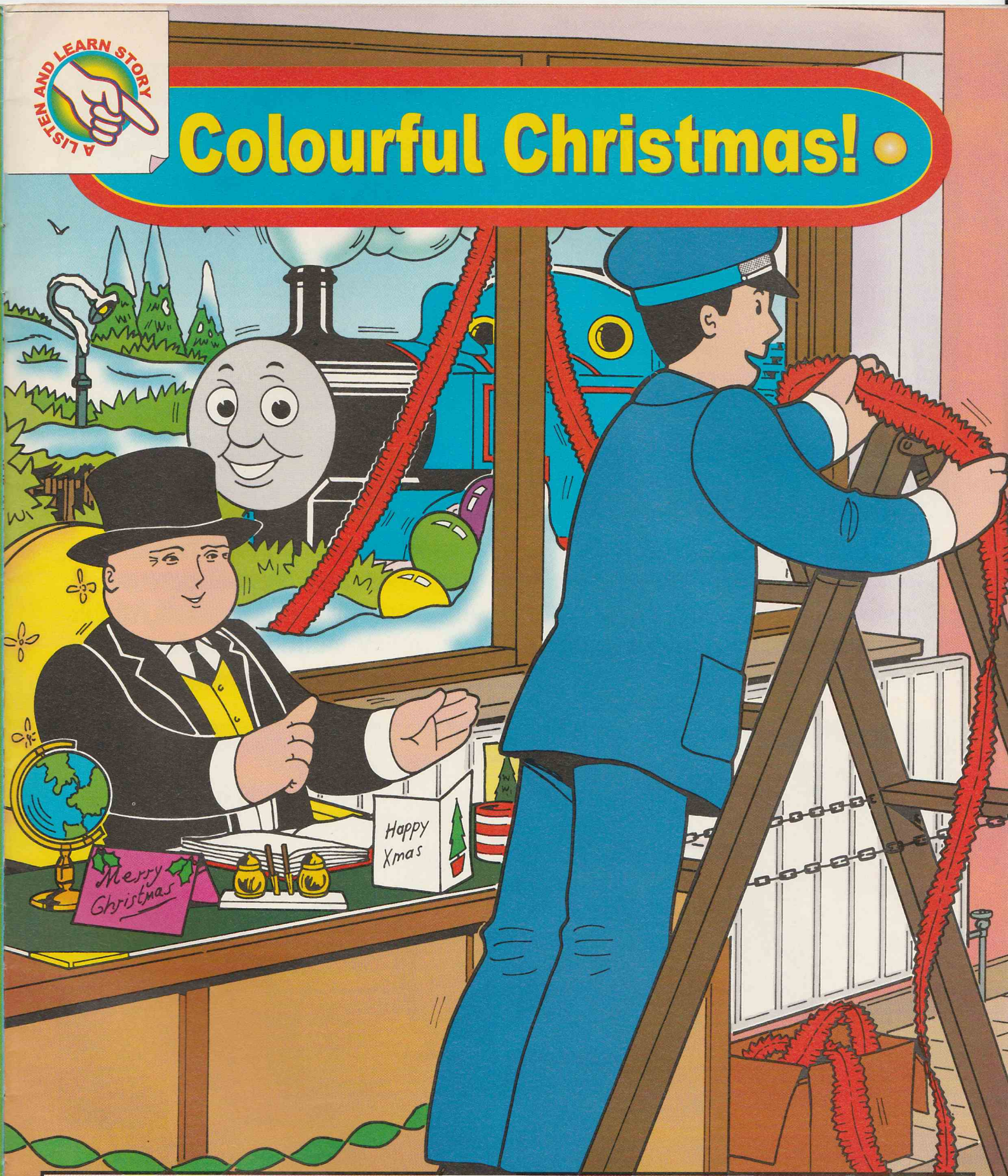




Merry Christmas
from the
Island of Sodor!

A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

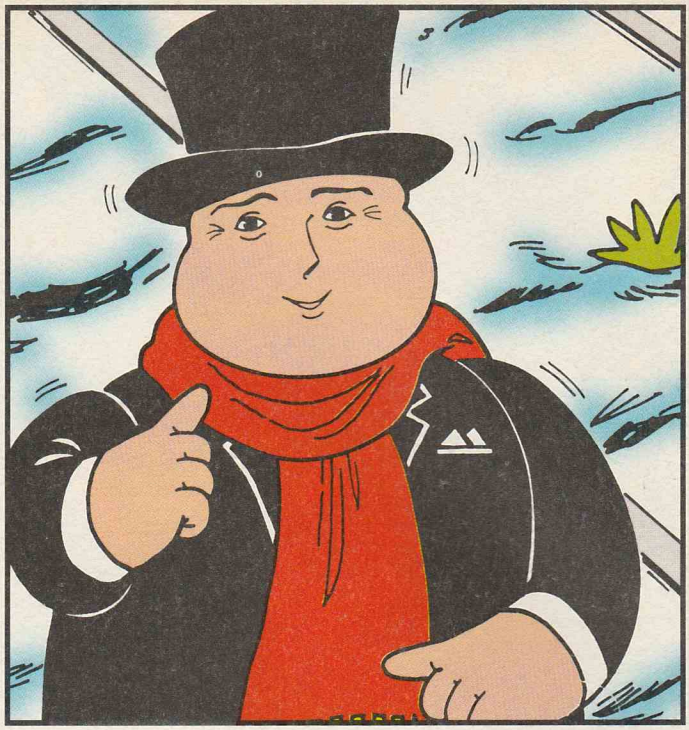
Colourful Christmas!



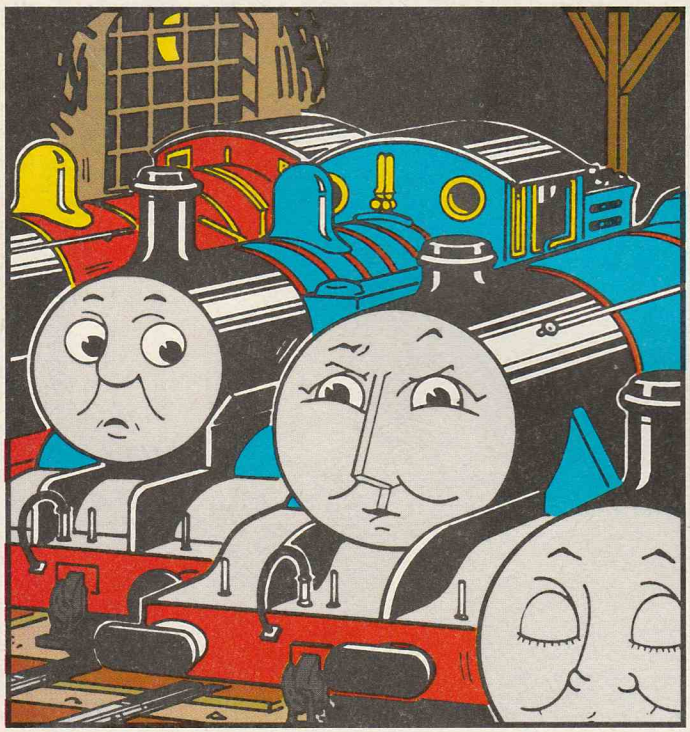
1. Snow had fallen across the Island of Sodor just in time for Christmas. Everywhere was very white. But the Fat Controller's railway looked colourful.

2. His staff were busy hanging lots of decorations around the Main Station. They even put up balloons and paper streamers in the Fat Controller's office.

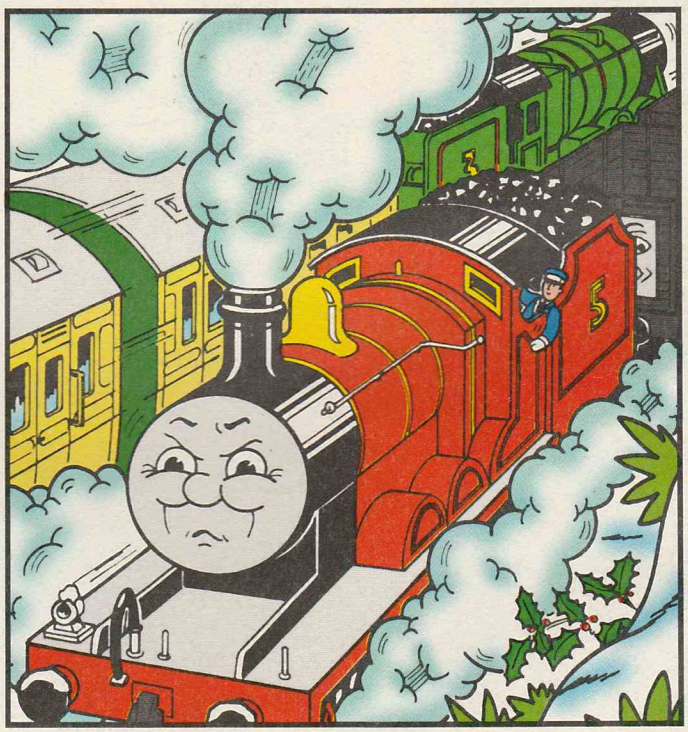
3. Thomas returned from a special trip to collect a big Christmas tree. Soon it stood at the entrance to the station and tiny lights twinkled all over it.



4. All the other stations were decorated, too. "Passengers must enjoy the railway, especially at this festive time of year!" the Fat Controller told his engines.

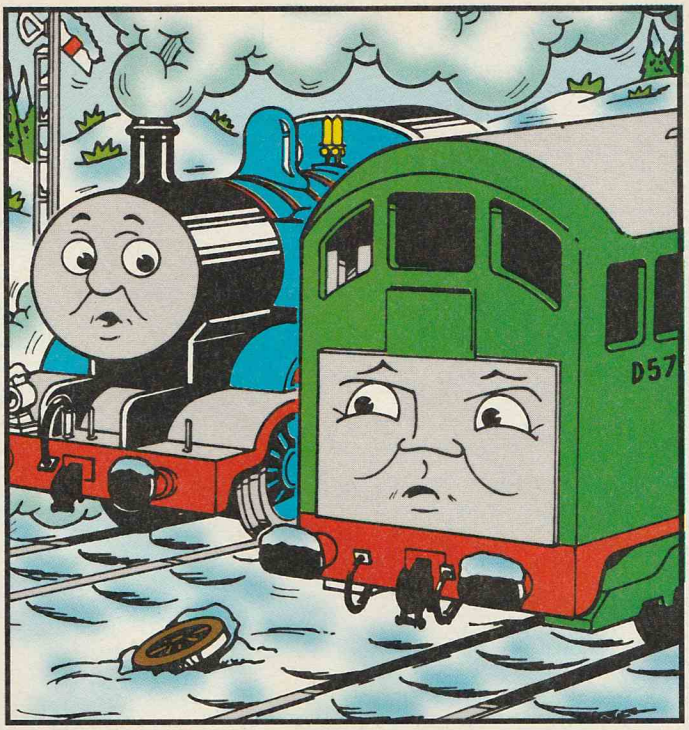


5. But they were not very happy. "The Fat Controller's forgotten about us!" the engines grumbled that night in their cold, bare shed. "All we do is work!"



6. On Christmas Eve, the engines were busier than ever. They had to start work very early to carry extra goods and passenger trains all over the Island of Sodor.

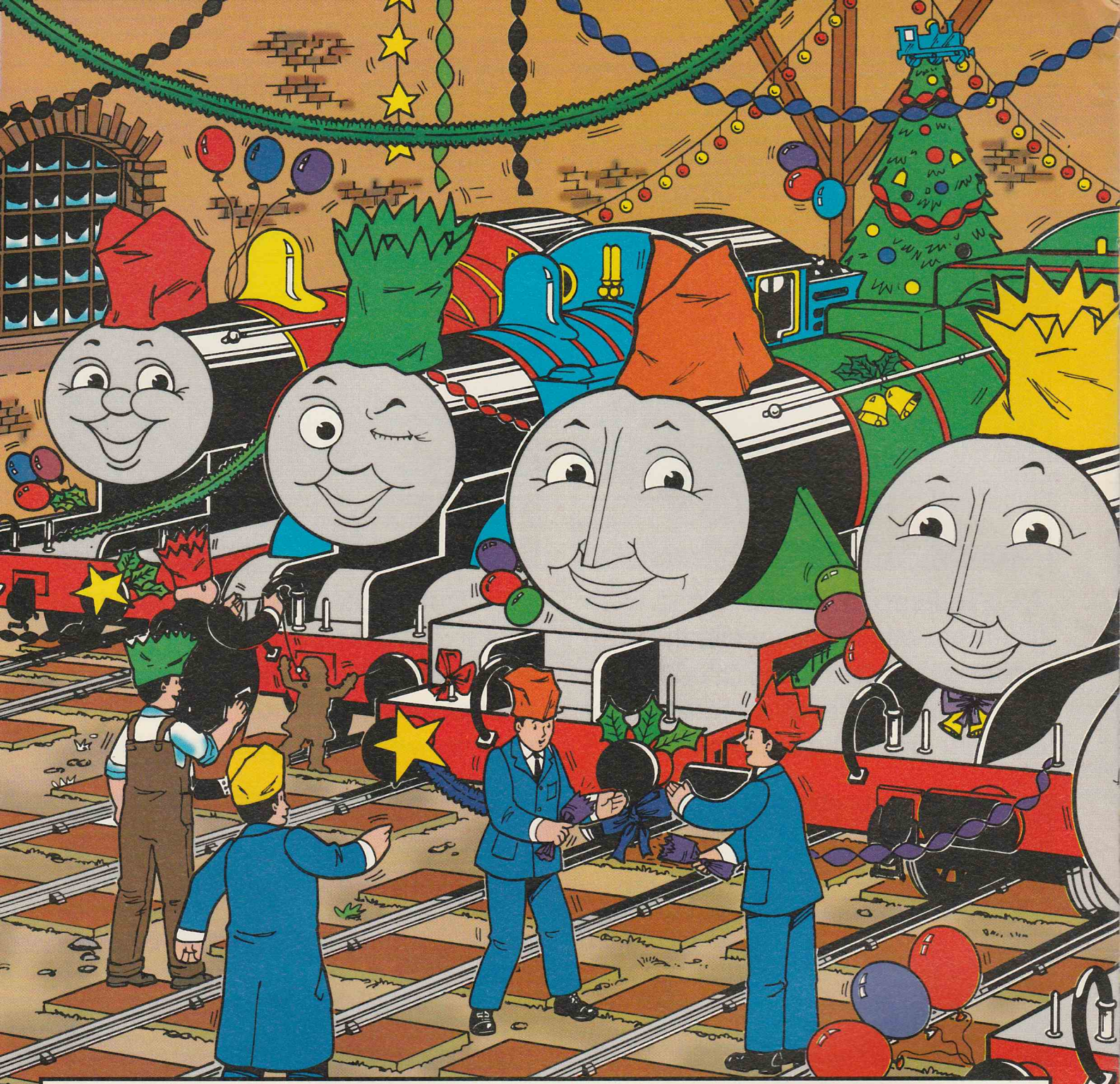
7. To keep warm, travellers were given hot mince pies while they waited to catch a train. "Happy Christmas!" the stationmasters cheerily greeted passengers.



8. Near a junction, Thomas met Edward and BoCo. "Christmas is a wonderful time for everyone, except us!" they said. All the engines were feeling miserable.

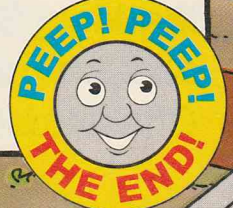
9. None of them finished work until late. When they returned to the Main Station, there was no one about. "They've gone home for Christmas!" said Henry, sadly.

10. The engines rolled gloomily into their shed. It was dark inside. Suddenly, the lights were turned on. The astonished engines could hardly believe their eyes.



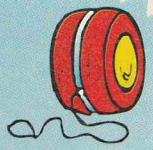
11. Paper chains, balloons and holly hung everywhere. In one corner of the shed, there was even a tall Christmas tree with coloured lights and a little, shiny engine on top. The Fat Controller and his staff were all wearing party hats. They had huge ones for the engines to put on as well. "Merry Christmas, everyone!" called the Fat Controller.

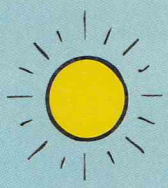
12. "While you were kept busy, we decorated the engine shed as a surprise," he explained. The Fat Controller hung decorations from each engine's buffers. There were bells, shiny stars and a Santa Claus. "I hope you didn't think I'd forget my Really Useful Engines?" he asked. "Oh, no, sir!" smiled Thomas, winking to the others.

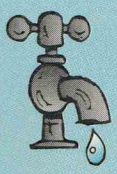


SECRET MESSAGE!

Put the first letter of each of the items into the boxes below them to spell a secret message from Thomas to you!

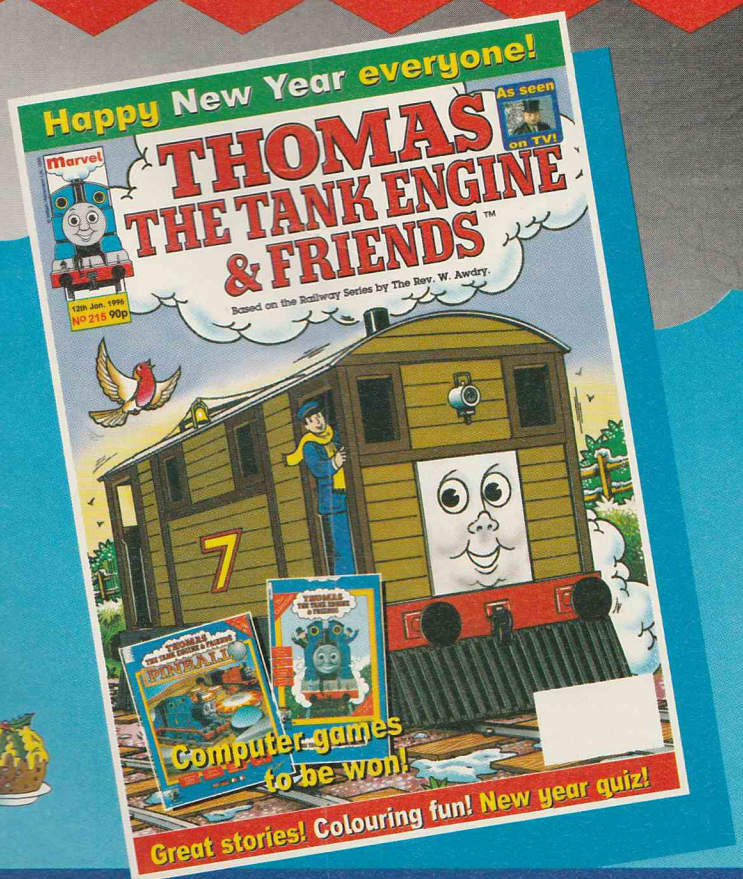






C h r i s t m a s

All aboard for a splendid new year!



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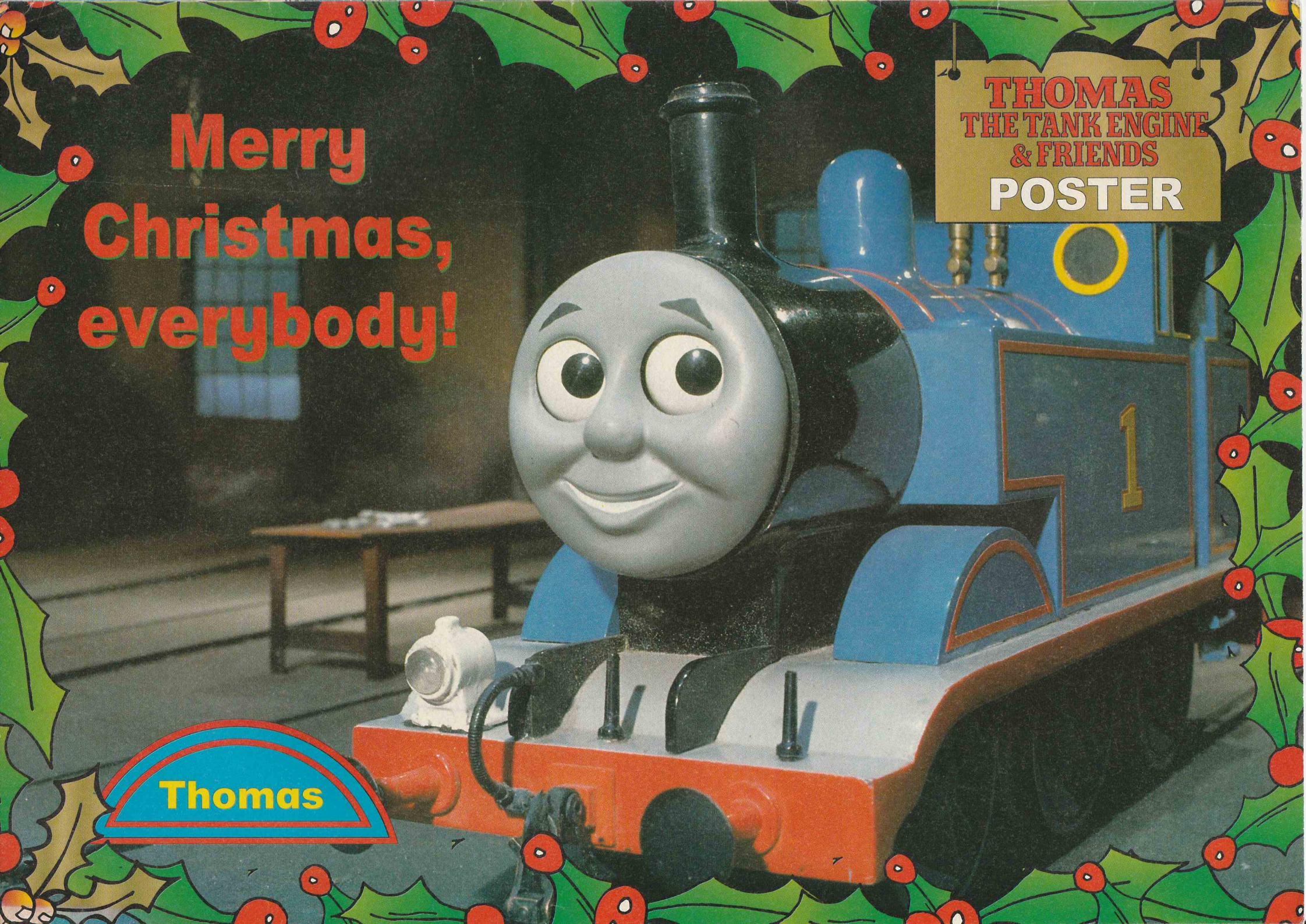
Merry Christmas, everybody!
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS
POSTER
1
Thomas